

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A valve stem is provided with a handle assembly having a noncircular axially extending formation and a retaining element fixed to the stem and formed with an array of axially extending and radially deflectable tongues having radially outwardly directed bumps and a screwthread of predetermined axial length axially offset from the stem formation and from the tongues. A handle having a hub formed with a hole fittable axially over the retaining element is formed inside the hole with a screwthread complementary to the retaining-element screwthread, with a handle formation complementary to and fittable axially with the stem formation and offset from the handle screwthread by a distance greater than the retaining-element screwthread axial length, and with a radially inwardly open groove. The handle fits with its hole over the element with the formations interengaged, the screwthreads not engaged, and the bumps in the groove.